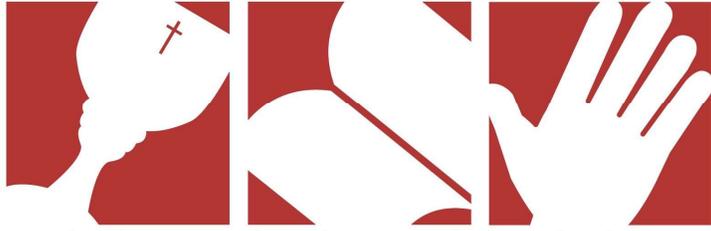


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with Jesus Christ and Each Other

## Good Friday

April 2, 2021

### AS WE GATHER

This is a service of meditation and silence, commemorating what is the most solemn night of the Church Year. In this time together we contemplate our Lord's Passion unfolding, and ending as He submits Himself to the frailty of human flesh---even to the point of death. Yet, at His final moment, He speaks the words: "It is finished!" It is a significant phrase of unending hope for us. It is a precious kernel of pure Gospel, of divine comfort knowing that Jesus has accomplished all things.

Lights will be dimmed and candles extinguished throughout the service as our Lord nears His death. At the close of the service The Lord's Prayer will be spoken quietly followed by a loud noise symbolizing the sealing of the tomb and one final hymn verse sung. Please exit in silence.

### INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously be with us for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; that He might draw the whole world to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our forgiveness and life may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### OPENING PASSION READING

*(Pilate questions Jesus.)*

A Reading from John 18:28 – 19:16

<sup>28</sup> Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

<sup>30</sup> "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected.<sup>32</sup> This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

<sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup> But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

<sup>19</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe <sup>3</sup> and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

<sup>4</sup> Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”<sup>5</sup> When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

<sup>6</sup> As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

<sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup> and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.<sup>10</sup> “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

<sup>12</sup> From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). <sup>14</sup> It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

<sup>15</sup> But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

<sup>16</sup> Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (vs. 1-4)

Lutheran Service Book 439

## PROPHECY READING

*(God's Suffering Servant is described.)*

A Reading from Isaiah 52:13 – 53:3

<sup>13</sup> See, my servant will act wisely;  
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

<sup>14</sup> Just as there were many who were appalled at him—  
his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being  
and his form marred beyond human likeness—

<sup>15</sup> so he will sprinkle many nations,  
and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,  
and what they have not heard, they will understand.

**53** Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Centuries earlier the prophet Isaiah wrote in poetic form about the time when God's Servant would be rejected by men.

P: Behold, My Servant shall act wisely;

**C: He shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.**

P: As many were astonished at you---

**C: His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind---**

P: For He grew up before Him like a young plant,

**C: and like a root out of dry ground;**

P: He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him,

**C: and no beauty that we should desire Him.**

P: He was despised and rejected by men;

**C: a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;**

P: and as one from whom men hide their faces

**C: He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.**

## PASSION READING OF FULFILLMENT

*(The title over the cross.)*

A Reading from John 19:17 – 22

<sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs. 1-4)

Lutheran Service Book 450

## LITANY OF PROPHECY

*(based on prophecy from Ps. 22)*

P: When David was being pursued by Saul, it seemed a time in which God had forsaken him. The words David wrote in his distress would be a prophecy fulfilled in our Savior, as Jesus experienced a time of true desertion by His Father when He carried our sins to the cross.

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C: Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?**

P: All who see me mock me;

**C: they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;**

P: "He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver him;

**C: let Him rescue him, for He delights in him!"**

P: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

**C: my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**

P: my strength is dried up like a potsherd,

**C: and my tongue sticks to my jaws; You lay me in the dust of death.**

P: For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

**C: they have pierced my hands and feet ---**

P: I can count all my bones---

**C: they stare and gloat over me;**

P: they divide my garments among them,  
C: **and for my clothing they cast lots.**

## PASSION READING OF FULFILLMENT

*(Soldiers divide Jesus' clothes.)*

A Reading from John 19:23 – 24

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

<sup>24</sup> "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment."

So this is what the soldiers did.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (vs. 1, 3)

Lutheran Service Book 451

## PRAYERS

*(based on prophecy from Micah 6 and Isaiah 5)*

P: When the prophet Micah wrote, the people had forgotten the Lord. It was time for God to declare His case against them. When Christ was on the cross, it was again such a time.

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. Though I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O My people.

C: **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, leave us not to bitter death. O Lord, have mercy.**

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. For I have conquered all your foes, you have given Me over and delivered Me to those who persecute Me. For I have fed you with My Word and refreshed you with living water, you have given Me gall and vinegar to drink. O My people.

C: **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, allow us not to lose hope in You in our earthly lives. O Lord, have mercy.**

P: Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O My people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer Me. What more could have been done for My vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O My people.

C: **Holy Lord God, holy and mighty God, holy and most merciful Redeemer; God eternal, keep us steadfast in the true faith. O Lord, have mercy.**

## PASSION READING OF FULFILLMENT

*(Christ's work finished)*

## A Reading from John 19:25 – 37

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup> The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup> The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," <sup>37</sup> and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lutheran Service Book 425

## SERMON

Hymn: Upon the Cross Extended (vs. 1,4, 7)

Lutheran Service Book 453

## PROPHECY READING

*(The Suffering Servant given for us)*

### A Reading from Isaiah 53:4 – 12

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

<sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.  
For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** Were You There (vs. 1, 2)

Lutheran Service Book 456

## PASSION READING OF FULFILLMENT

*(The burial of Jesus)*

A Reading from John 19:38 – 42

<sup>38</sup> Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup> He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup> Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup> At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup> Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*(Spoken quietly)*

*(The loud, sudden sound is to symbolize the death of Jesus and the closing of the tomb. As we depart from this service in silent meditation, we remember our need for deliverance. The promise through human history has been fulfilled. It is finished).*

**Hymn:** Were You There (vs. 3)

Lutheran Service Book 456

*(Please exit in silence.)*

*For your reflection:*

*“<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*  
*Hebrews 12:1-3*